



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

MONARCH BUTTERFLY DAY

WHEREAS: The monarch butterfly is a pollinator species vital to Georgia's ecosystem. These insects help to move pollen from one plant to another, fertilizing flowers and making it possible for plants to produce food for Georgia's citizens and wildlife; and

WHEREAS: In the last 20 years, the monarch population has sharply declined by more than 90 percent. Georgia has been designated as a high-priority area for monarch conservation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources also recently identified the monarch butterfly as a high-priority species in the State Wildlife Action Plan; and

WHEREAS: Many factors have contributed to the decline of monarchs and other pollinators, such as habitat loss, pesticides, and changes in climate; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia continues working to educate citizens on preserving and restoring the monarch population. The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia has established Monarchs Across Georgia (MAG), in which teachers, students, families, communities, and businesses come together to study the monarch population and restore the butterfly habitat across the state. MAG has partnered with many organizations including the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Park Service in an effort to advance monarch conservation; and

WHEREAS: On Monarch Butterfly Day, citizens across the state are encouraged to support Georgia's monarch population by planting milkweed, reducing pesticide and herbicide usage, establishing monarch way stations, and educating others about the ongoing monarch conservation efforts; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2017, as MONARCH BUTTERFLY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22nd day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF